

Application Serial No. 10/018,756
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2783

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated September 15, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-8 are pending, Claims 1-7 are rejected and Claim 8 is withdrawn. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

It is first noted that the Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) dated February 20, 2002 has not been acknowledged by the Examiner. PAIR shows the IDS as having been received, but not acknowledged. The Applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of form PTO-1449 be returned with the next office communication.

In the Office Action, Figures 1-3 are objected to with regard to the descriptive legends. No details regarding the objection are given. Figures 1-3 do not contain any descriptive legends so the Applicant is puzzled why an objection has been raised. The descriptive legends used within the other drawing figures appear to be appropriate. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to be more specific regarding what is objected to in the drawings.

In the Office Action, the Applicant's claim to foreign priority is acknowledged, but it is noted that the certified copies of the priority documents have not been received. It is noted that the present application is a completion of PCT/JP01/03342, and that certified copies should have been provided by WIPO. If certified copies are ever needed however, Applicant will obtain another set of certified copies of the priority documents.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart et al. (US 2002/0071246). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in view of Umeda et al. (US 5,920,342). Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,657,246). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in view of Andersson et al. (US 5,500,671). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses theses rejections.

Stewart et al., Umeda et al., Hogan et al. and Andersson et al. merely disclose a presentation device, an image input device, a video conference system and a video conference user interface, respectively. That is, none of the cited prior art references relate to 'make-up counseling' or 'make-up for a subject's face', as

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claimed in Claim 1 of the present invention. Thus, first of all, none of the cited prior art references seems to be relevant to the present invention.

Further, in the Office Action, there is no discussion concerning any motivation to reach the present invention, a make-up counseling apparatus', from these cited prior art references, i.e. a presentation device, an image input device, a video conference system and a video conference user interface, which, as mentioned above, seem to have no relevance to the make-up counseling apparatus, at least in terms of an applicable industrial field.

For example, Stewart (which is the main cited prior art reference) merely discloses a presentation device having two displays 7 and 11. Since the presentation device is configured merely for the purpose of giving a presentation, information is provided merely uni-directionally from a presentation giving person to a presentation receiving person.

In contrast thereto, the make-up counseling apparatus according to the present invention is configured for the purpose of make-up counseling for make-up of a subject's face. Thus, the purpose and accordingly the industrial field of the present invention are clearly different from those of Stewart.

According to the present invention, as shown in FIG. 5 of the originally filed application, the counselor and the subject sit face to face, and can respectively operate their own operating means provided on the respective touch panels of the liquid crystal monitors 40 and 30. In this configuration, bi-directional communication between the counselor and the subject is achieved. As a result, the subject can actively propose her idea to the counselor as well as the counselor showing her plan to the subject, at the same time. Thus, make-up counseling work can be effectively and efficiently carried out.

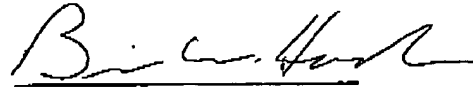
Thus, the present invention is clearly different from the cited prior art references, and thus, should be patentable thereover.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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